

In total, more than 100 battalions are operating throughout Iraq. Our commanders report that the Iraqi forces are operating with increasing effectiveness. As Iraqi forces show they're capable of keeping the terrorists out, they're earning the trust and confidence of the Iraqi people, which ensures the success of a free and democratic Iraq.

The terrorists have a history of escalating their attacks before Iraq's major political milestones. Two key elections are fast approaching. As these milestones approach, we can expect there to be increasing violence from the terrorists. They can't stand elections. The thought of people voting is an anathema to them. You see, democracy and freedom are the exact opposite of what's in their mind, in their vision.

Next month the Iraqis will vote on a democratic constitution. If that constitution is approved, they will return to polls later this year to elect a fully constitutional government. The terrorists will fail. See, the Iraqis want to be free. They proved that last January when over 8 million citizens, in the face of violence and threats, voted. And the terrorists are going to fail this time. But we can expect they'll do everything in their power to try to stop the march of freedom. And our troops are ready for it.

I urge the Members of Congress to attend the briefings with General Abizaid and Casey. I urge them to ask questions about our efforts in Iraq and to listen carefully about the type of war we fight. The support of Congress for our troops and our mission is important, and Americans need to know about the gains we've made in recent weeks and months. They need to know the way we're adopting our tactics and the way we're changing our strategy to meet the needs on the ground.

As Members of Congress speak with Generals Abizaid and Casey, I'm confident they'll see what I see—our leaders, these two Generals are men of vision and determination, and it is their leadership that is helping bring victory in the war on terror.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:26 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. John P. Abizaid, USA, com-

batant commander, U.S. Central Command; Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq; and senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarkawi. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Memorandum on Transfers of Defense Articles or Services for Libya for Chemical Weapons Destruction

September 28, 2005

Presidential Determination No. 2005–39

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Transfers of Defense Articles or Services for Libya for Chemical Weapons Destruction

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including sections 40(g) and 40A of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), I hereby:

- determine that the transaction, encompassing sales or licensing for export of defense articles or defense services necessary to assist in chemical weapon (CW) destruction in Libya, is essential to the national security interests of the United States and important to the national interests of the United States;
- waive the prohibitions in sections 40 and 40A of the AECA related to such transaction; and
- assign to you the functions under AECA section 40(g)(2) to consult with and submit reports to the Congress for proposed specific exports or transfers, 15 days prior to permitting them to proceed, that are necessary for and within the scope of this waiver determination and the transaction referred to herein.

You are authorized and directed to report this certification to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Memorandum on Transfers of Defense Articles or Services and Brokering Activities for Libya Relating to Disposition of Libyan-owned C-130H Aircraft

September 28, 2005

Presidential Determination No. 2005-40

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Transfers of Defense Articles or Services and Brokering Activities for Libya Relating to Disposition of Libyan-owned C-130H Aircraft

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including sections 40(g) and 40A of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), I hereby:

- determine that the transaction, encompassing sales or licensing for export of defense articles or defense services and brokering activities necessary to assist in the disposition, including any required refurbishment, of Libyan-owned C-130H aircraft, is essential to the national security interests of the United States and important to the national interests of the United States;
- waive the prohibitions in sections 40 and 40A of the AECA related to such transaction; and
- assign to you the functions under AECA section 40(g)(2) to consult with and submit reports to the Congress for proposed specific exports or transfers, 15 days prior to permitting them to proceed, that are necessary for and within the scope of this waiver determination and the transaction referred to herein.

You are authorized and directed to report this certification to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Protocol Amending the France-United States Taxation Convention

September 28, 2005

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith a Protocol Amending the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the French Republic for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, signed at Paris on August 31, 1994 (the "Convention"), signed at Washington on December 8, 2004 (the "Protocol"). Also transmitted for the information of the Senate is the report of the Department of State with respect to the Protocol.

The Protocol was negotiated to address certain technical issues that have arisen since the Convention entered into force. The Protocol was concluded in recognition of the importance of U.S. economic relations with France.

The Protocol clarifies the treatment of investments made in France by U.S. investors through partnerships located in the United States, France, or third countries. It also modifies the provisions of the treaty dealing with pensions and pension contributions in order to achieve parity given the two countries' fundamentally different pension systems. The Protocol makes other changes to the Convention to reflect more closely current U.S. tax treaty policy.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to this Protocol and that the Senate give its advice and consent to ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 28, 2005.